

**N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES  
COORDINATING BOARD**

**Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy  
222 Sheep Davis Road  
Concord, NH 03301**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 17, 2005**

**Members Present:** Joe Sabato (Chair), Diane Becker, Dave Dubey, David Duquette, Janet Houston, Don Johnson, Doug Martin, Douglas McVicar, Jackie Normile, Michael Pepin, Suzanne Prentiss, Susan Reeves, Norman Yanofsky

**Members Absent:** Steve Achilles (Vice Chair), Eileen Bartlett, Al Burbank, David Hogan, Ken Howe, Karen Lord, Joseph Mastromarino, Shawn Mitchell, Diane Roberts, John Sutton

**Guests:** Linda Powell, Christopher Dubey, Steve Erickson, Jeanne Erickson, Ed Laverty, Allan Bryant, Randy Flynn, Harry Brown, Wendy Grimes, William Thorpe

**Bureau Staff:** Rick Mason, Director, Liza Burrill, Education Coordinator; Kathy Doolan, Field Services, Coordinator; Vicki Blanchard, ALS Coordinator; Fred Von Recklinghausen, Research Coordinator  
Cindy Castagnino, Secretary II

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 1.** The meeting of the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board was called to order by Joseph Sabato on November 17, 2005 at 1:05 PM at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in Concord, NH.

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Item 1.** **September 15, 2005 Minutes: Motion** was made by Joe Sabato to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Doug Martin. The motion was passed unanimously.

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Item 1. First Responder Scope of Practice.** The Bureau Chief gave an overview of the history of this issue and why it has been brought to the table at this time. With the changes in protocols as of January 1, 2006, the First Responder will no longer have the “local option” to continue with spinal immobilization, oxygen therapy, vital signs and splinting skills even if they are currently trained in these skills. These “additional” skills, now allowed under local option, will not be allowed after 1/1/06 unless waivers are issued and changes are made to the protocols or the decision is made to discontinue them at the FR level completely.

Harry Brown gave a history of the situation and it’s effects on Walpole EMS and the North Country services. He also offered an alternative to continuing the skills at the FR level which was to “Bridge” those FR’s up to the EMT-B level and stop allowing the teaching of these skills to any other FR’s. Making these “Enhanced First Responders” test out at the EMT-B level or stay at the current DOT FR skill level of patient care.

Linda Powell gave her observations as to how it would effect services in the New London/Bradford NH area and that in her opinion it would lessen the skills offered and diminish patient care in the area. Wendy Grimes, of Sutton Rescue, submitted a letter to the Board addressing this issue.

After long and detailed discussion of all options, Dr. Sabato made an initial **motion** to have the Bureau waive the FR Services for one year and set up a study committee to research the best option for scope of skills for NH First Responders. J. Houston seconded the motion and more discussion ensued about the length of the waiver, who would hold responsibility for training, changing the statement at the beginning of the current protocols and when the study committee should report back to the Board. Dr Sabato then amended the motion to state that “In the absence of the Bureau being able to change the protocol statement about First Responders at the beginning of the document, a waiver be pursued and a study group brought together and plan to report back to the Board in March of 2006” . This was seconded by J. Houston and the **motion was voted on and passed unanimously.**

**Item 2. NH EMS Medical Control Board Report:** In the interest of time and because most in attendance were at the morning meeting, this report was not given.

S. Reeves requested that the Board return to the previous discussion and appoint the study committee authorized under approved motion. Dr. Sabato, D. Dubey, Dr. Hubbell, L. Powell and H. Brown along with a Bureau Staff member to be assigned, will be asked to sit on the study committee

**Item 3. NH Bureau of EMS Report:** Bureau Chief Prentiss gave out her report to be read over by the committee.

**Item 4. EMSC Update:** J. Houston reported that the grant was completed on time. The Senate approved the budget and also the House. There is an EMSC advisory committee being created with NH representatives needed  
Dr. Sabato congratulated Janet for her work.

**Item 5. HB 257:** (see below – discussed out of agenda order)

**Item 6. DHHS Representative:** Dr. Sabato reported that the representative will be Mary Ann Cooney, who was unable to make today's meeting.

**Item 7. Best Practices:** Dr Sabato stated difficulty in gathering the group for a meeting and doesn't have a list of interested individuals. Eric Perry will be the Bureau Staff member assigned to this committee and will be in touch with Dr. Sabato to get a meeting coordinated.

**Item 5. HB 257:** Chief Prentiss gave a presentation on the proposed rules with a detailed explanation of the changes drafted and why they were needed. The possibility exists that these will go in as interim rules for 120 days and then they will go through the normal process of posting and public hearings before they can be finalized. No comments came from the Board and all agreed to give their comments to the Bureau within two weeks time. All comments should be e-mailed to K. Doolan or S. Prentiss by Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Copies of the rules were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting but if anyone needs another copy please contact the Bureau.

A discussion began on the need for Medical Resource Hospital (MRH) agreements under the new statewide protocols and what could be required by the Bureau – maximums and minimums. An example was made of excessive liability insurance required by an MRH prior to signing an agreement. the Bureau Chief stated that the Bureau could assist both parties to come to an agreement but only outlined the minimum requirements in the Administrative Rules. A standardized form was discussed and it was agreed that not all hospital legal departments would agree to one format. The Bureau could distribute a “best practices” type of list with the elements to be contained within an agreement. The Bureau Chief stressed that the agreement formalized responsibilities and the relationship that the two parties will have. S. Reeves was asked to bring the question about MRH agreements back to the Hospital Association for an opinion and to report back at next meeting.

**Item 8. Items of Interest:**

Dr. Sabato stated that if other persons are interested in the First Responder Issue to be in touch with himself or the Bureau Chief.

D. Johnson asked if any further action had been taken on the “blood draw” issue from last meeting. The Bureau Chief stated that the Fire Chiefs Assoc. had brought it forward but DHHS had many more pressing issues pending and had not brought that back to the table for discussion as yet. Possibly the Board can pose this to Ms. Cooney at the next meeting in person.

The AED grant program history was mentioned by D. Dubey who felt that some of the recipients of machines were quite possibly not living up to their MOU agreements and asked about follow-up with the organizations. S. Prentiss stated that a plan was in place but due to the gas price increases it was put on hold. If budget and staff time allows, the appropriate follow-up with each recipient will happen during 2006. There are also quarterly report cards sent by the Bureau to each recipient to cover the past three years of the grant, these will be continued. Each organization then has to report the status of each MOU element back to the Bureau for that particular quarter. D. Dubey asked that if an organization is not complying with the MOU (EX: still has the machine in the box in a closet) that the machine be taken back and redistributed through the Regional Council to a location that will use the machine appropriately.

Dr. Sabato announced that he would not be at the meeting in January 2006 and will make S. Achilles (Vice) aware of this. He will also ask Steve Tomiacheck and Mary Cooney to attend the January 19, 2006 meeting.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by D. Martin and seconded by D. Dubey to adjourn.  
Unanimous agreement - adjourned at 3:50 PM.

#### **V. NEXT MEETING**

**January 19, 2006** at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne M. Prentiss, Bureau Chief, EMS

(Prepared by C. Castagnino / K. Doolan)